

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Before paragraph 4, please amend the paragraphs added in the Submission of June 9, 2003 as follows:

The present invention is directed to an apparatus for gripping and removing a shingle fixed to a support or substrate. The apparatus comprises: an upper gripping member defining a substantially flat first gripping surface a lower gripping member defining a substantially flat second gripping surface; a gripping mechanism connecting the upper and lower gripping members to one another, the gripping mechanism being configured for urging the gripping members toward one another for gripping the shingle therebetween; and an impact transmitting member connected to the gripping mechanism, the impact transmitting member being configured for transmitting an impact to both the upper and lower gripping members for removing the shingle from its support when the shingle is gripped between the upper and lower gripping members. According to the present invention, the first and second gripping surfaces are configured and disposed relative to one another such that, when the apparatus grips the shingle, each of the first and second gripping surfaces applies a force ~~distributed across a respective one of substantially flat surfaces of the shingle evenly distributed along a~~ an entire width thereof; and the impact transmitting member is further configured and disposed for transmitting the impact ~~substantially parallel to the flat surfaces of the shingle to both the upper and lower gripping members when the shingle is gripped therebetween~~ for removing the shingle from the support.

The present invention further pertains to a method for removing a shingle fixed to a support. The method comprises: gripping the shingle between a first flat gripping surface and a second flat gripping surface of respective upper and lower gripping members of a gripping apparatus such that each of the first and second flat gripping surfaces applies a force [distributed across a respective one of flat surfaces of the shingle]

EJ evenly distributed along an entire width thereof; and transmitting an impact to both the upper and lower gripping members in a direction substantially parallel to the flat surfaces of the shingle when the shingle is gripped there between for removing the shingle from the support.

Please amend paragraph 11 as follows:

[0011] In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, opposing upper plate 11 and lower plate 12 grip a shingle by bringing upper handle 16 and lower handle 19 of pliers 10 together. Adjustment screw should be set such that the upper and lower plates 11 and 12 grip the shingle with sufficient force when the pliers 10 are in the locked position. Plates ~~10~~ 11 and ~~11~~ 12 grip the shingle with sufficient force when the shingle is removed when anvil 15 receives a blow from a hammer. Plates ~~10~~ 11 and ~~11~~ 12 grip with insufficient force when the tool comes off the shingle when it receives a blow from the hammer, without removing the shingle. The force from plate ~~10~~ 11 and ~~11~~ 12, as can be readily appreciated from the instant description, is distributed across respective ones of flat surfaces of the shingle.